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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

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18 NOV 1993

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IN REPLY REFER TO:

Honorable Thomas H. Andrews
Member, House of Representatives
136 Commercial Street
Portland, ME 04101

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Congressman Andrews:

93-253

This responds to your letter of July 9, 1993, addressing the 2 GHz Personal Communications Services (PCS) proceeding, GEN Docket No. 90-314. Your constituent, Gregory L. Clifford, General Manager of Unity Telephone Company, Inc., expresses support for a PCS licensing structure that ensures participation by small and rural telephone companies in providing PCS services when licenses are awarded by competitive bidding.

On September 23, 1993, the Commission adopted final rules to govern PCS. The Commission allocated 120 megahertz of spectrum for licensed PCS and adopted licensing areas based upon Basic Trading Areas (BTAs) and Major Trading Areas (MTAs); 60 megahertz of spectrum were allocated for BTAs and 60 megahertz for MTAs. The allocation for MTAs is composed of two 30 megahertz frequency blocks, while the allocation for BTAs is composed of one 20 megahertz frequency block and four 10 megahertz frequency blocks. Local exchange carriers may apply for PCS licenses on the same basis as other applicants.

Consistent with the Omnibus Reconciliation Act, in a companion Notice of Proposed Rule Making, PP Docket No. 93-253, the Commission proposed to award PCS licenses by competitive bidding. The Commission also proposed licensing preferences in one 20 megahertz and one 10 megahertz frequency block for rural telephone companies, small businesses, and businesses owned by minorities and women.

The Commission's decisions addressing PCS are designed to foster competition among PCS providers and between PCS providers and cellular radio operators and to ensure expeditious provision of PCS in both urban and rural areas. I am enclosing the press releases for the dockets addressed above that more fully describe the Commission's actions.

Sincerely,

Bruce Franca

Thomas P. Stanley
Chief Engineer

Enclosures

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THOMAS H. ANDREWS

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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COMMITTEE ON
ARMED SERVICES

COMMITTEE ON
MERCHANT MARINE
AND FISHERIES

COMMITTEE ON
SMALL BUSINESS

MAJORITY WHIP AT LARGE

July 9, 1993

Linda Townsend Solheim
Director, Legislative Affairs
Federal Communications Commission
Room 808
1919 M Street N.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Linda Townsend Solheim:

Recently this office received the enclosed letter from Gregory Clifford of Unitel.

Gregory Clifford is concerned about the FCC auctioning future frequencies. Would you kindly clarify the FCC's policy on auctioning frequencies for this office.

Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions please contact me.

Sincerely,

Betsy Saltonstall
Field Representative
District Office

enclosure



UNITY TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.

SEP 15 1993

September 2, 1993

The Honorable Thomas Andrews
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

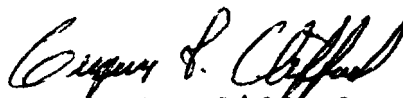
Dear Representative Andrews:

I am writing to ask you to contact Federal Communications Commission Chairman James H. Quello and Commissioners Andrew C. Barrett and Ervin S. Duggan strongly encouraging them to fully achieve the objectives of the recently passed budget reconciliation law by ensuring that small and rural telephone systems are able to provide new services, such as PCS, under an auction regime.

The budget reconciliation law requires the FCC to ensure new technologies are rapidly deployed in rural areas. It also requires that licenses be distributed to a wide variety of applicants, including rural telephone companies.

Small and rural telephone systems are best situated to assure new services and technologies reach rural subscribers. They have a proven track record of delivering state-of-the art technologies to their subscribers in rural America. Please urge the FCC to ensure that we can continue to do so.

Sincerely,


Gregory L. Clifford
General Manager

GLC/ted